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Some Birds of Mt. Lassen Volcanic National Park

Three counties meet in this National Park, Lassen, Shasta and Plumas with the addition of Tehama County in the southwest corner. This gives a picturesque interest to the area but is of no real significance as far as the birds of the Park are concerned.

The park lands include summits above timber-line, forested mountain slopes, willow and alder thickets, lakes, streams, meadows, chaparral and the devastated areas. One type of habitat runs easily into the other. One knoll is covered with a fine stand of red firs. One has but to cross a grassy swale to reach another knoll with a pure growth of lodge pole pine.

One point must be kept in mind, that this list and these observations were made during August. Headquarters were at Drakesbad in Plumas County. Short day trips were made to points of interest. One five-day pack trip was made in a circle from Drakesbad to the Cinder Cone, Snag Lake, so-called devastated area, Mt. Lassen, Bumpass Hell and back to Drakesbad.

Daily lists were kept from August 7 to August 24. Western Wood Pewee, Crested or Blue-fronted Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Robin, Golden Pileolated Warbler, Fox Sparrow, Sierra Junco were daily records.

Chipping Sparrows and their young were everywhere underfoot until suddenly not a single one was to be seen. August 11th is the last record. Baby Pewees were plentiful throughout the area, and during the time of recording, one was not allowed to forget that Robins are spotted when young. Pacific Night-hawks were often seen over the meadows at evening and over Boiling Lake in the day time.

Willow Lake is situated at the end of a long, mountain meadow with thickets of willow and alder; both being surrounded by forested slopes. Here the first excitement was caused by the sight of four Farallon Cormorants. It was interesting to watch their efforts to rise from a calm lake without the aid of a breeze. Three Hutchins Geese flew over and came to a landing on the lake in perfect form. On the Geyser Trail a Mountain Quail Cock paraded his family along a big fallen log. Not far distant a Sierra Grouse flew up ahead of us. I saw Mountain Quail frequently, the Grouse but once though others reported them as abundant.

On the pack trip through the Park, each day had its new records and each lake its new item of interest. On Grassy Lake was a Duck who was too clever for me to make an accurate statement but my belief is that it was a Lesser Scaup.

Snag Lake contained Farallon Cormorants and a Great Blue Heron. A Black-crowned Night Heron flew into a tree near the Lake, when my horse sneezed and spoiled the sport. It flew and perched on the wall of lava that dams the lake, for me, a new combination of habitat and bird. A Rock Wren called contentedly from the lava flow below the Cinder Cone and a Desert Sparrow Hawk flew around the Cone.

The second evening on the border of Twin Lakes, I had just extracted a hot potato baked in the ashes, and buttered it well, when a flash of white called me away to the beach. Two Spotted Sandpipers had arrived to dab and dip at their supper. Cormorants were seen on several of the smaller lakes.

Our camp at Mt. Lassen was made at the headwaters of King's Creek in the Upper King's Meadows, altitude 7500 feet. Red-tailed Hawks, Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds, Ash-throated and Olive-sided Flycatchers in addition to Pewees, Calaveras, Audubon, Tolmie, and Golden Pileolated Warblers and Western Tanagers were easily found and heard. Blue-fronted Jays and Clarke Crows were more numerous here but found throughout the Park. Water Ouzels lived here too.

I was seated by a shallow, swiftly running stream when a Rufous Hummer lighted in the water and stood still for a minute or two. Then it took a bath with fluttering wings just as any other bird does. It perched afterwards on a bare stalk at my shoulder to preen and gave me a chance to check on its points. It was either a female or an immature bird.

One of the delights of the trip was the incomparable grove of Mountain Hemlock on the slopes of Mt. Lassen. Here were seen a flock of Western Bluebirds.

On our return to Drakesbad there was a sharp change in the weather. Chickadees were gone or had retreated into deeper woods; Sierra Creepers were more numerous, Western Wood Pewees had ceased to call and Pileolated Warblers to sing. Could one conclude that the Chickadees had gone to a lower altitude and that Creepers had also, which brought them in greater numbers to our altitude? There was no appreciable change in the population of the Slender-billed and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Twice flocks of Brewer Blackbirds were seen in the meadows, also many Cassin Purple Finches feeding in flocks on the buds of *Gayophytum*.

One morning I was amused to see a Pewee chase a Pileolated Warbler over the meadow as if it were a choice edible morsel. A Red-breasted Sapsucker worked on the bark of an alder in a thicket. There were many other alders all about but he stuck by one and not only ringed the branches with holes but in places shredded the bark off completely.

On my list are single records of Killdeer, Anna Hummingbird, Wright Flycatcher, Northern Violet-green Swallow, Western Winter Wren, Russet-backed Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and White-crowned Sparrow. There is a single record of a Pileolated Woodpecker. As it was my first acquaintance with him I cannot pass him by as just another bird on my list. Others were seen later by members of our party. He gave me an excellent view of himself giving his call note as he came flying toward me. This was not the only exciting addition to my life-list. Down by the creek I kept hearing a whistling squeal. There they were, ten of them, in the top of a tall dead pine tree, the brightest one on the tip, Western Evening Grosbeaks. When they flew others joined them making sixteen flying in an open finch-like flock.

There is a Green-tailed Towhee on my list. I was confident, at the time, of the identification but was unaware that it was "off its beat" in that region. I hesitate to make any claim. With the addition of the Western Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker and Red-shafted Flicker a total list of fifty-four birds is completed. Cornelia C. Pringle, San Francisco, California. October 9, 1930.



Christmas Census for 1930

The Christmas census of the birds was taken on Sunday, December 21st, from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m., along the Marina, Presidio, Baker's Beach, Ocean Beach, Lobos Creek, Mountain Lake, Golden Gate Park and Lake Merced. The day was clear with a brisk north wind and average temperature of 51°. A total of ninety species, 11,784 individuals.

	Marina to Beach	Golden Gate Park	Lake Merced
Western Grebe	73	.....	17
Pied-bill Grebe	2	2	40
Glaucous-winged Gull	220	47	45
Western Gull	1438	2	60
California Gull	2236 +	222	1525
Farallon Cormorant	46	.....	13
Mallard	9	389	.....
Green-winged Teal .....	.....	1	10
Pintail	17	21	19
Canvas-back	5	205	649
Lesser Scaup .....	.....	85	6
Ring-necked Duck	11	7	15
White-winged Scoter	101	1	1
Ruddy Duck	2	120	366
American Bittern .....	.....	1	1
Coots	127	282	75
Black-bellied Plover	1	.....	1
Killdeer	49	73	26
Quail	35	202	5
Sparrow Hawk	2	1	.....
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	.....	1
Cooper Hawk .....	.....	2	1
Kingfisher .....	.....	2	1
Red-shafted Flicker	2	9	2
Anna Hummingbird	18	34	5
Black Phoebe	4	12	6
Horned Lark	4	.....	2
California Jay	3	1	.....
Brewer Blackbird	325	.....	4
Linnet	25	.....	95
English Sparrow	11	6	51
Nuttall Sparrow	92	375	23
Golden-crowned Sparrow	3	26	2
Point Pinos Junco	16	58	.....
Song Sparrow	19	60	18
Fox Sparrow	5	45	11
Spotted Towhee	3	13	4
Audubon Warbler	62	59	37
Yellowthroat .....	.....	1	15
Pipit	11	12	9
Vigors Wren	1	7	7
Chickadee	4	140	13
Bush-tit	40	152	10
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11	29	6
Dwarf Hermit Thrush	3	10	4

In addition to the above the following birds were observed along the Beach and Marina etc.: Pacific Loon 3; Ring-billed Gull 57+; Short-billed Gull 82+; Baird Cormorant 1; White Pelican 3; Brown Pelican 48; American Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 7; Sanderling 226; Snowy Plover 4; Surf Bird 10; Ruddy Turnstone 1; Black Turnstone 17; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Varied Thrush 6.

In the Golden Gate Park: Glaucous Gull 1; Baldpate 17; Greater Scaup 1; Bufflehead 5; Anthony Green Heron 1; Band-tailed Pigeon 23; Dusky Warbler 1; Robin 3; and flying overhead Sandpipers 16.

At Lake Merced: Eared Grebe 162; Red-throated Loon 1; Bonaparte Gull 2; Red-breasted Merganser 5; Shoveller 4; American Golden-eye 1; Whistling Swan 9; Great Blue Heron 4; Virginia Rail 4; Wilson Snipe 7; Least Sandpiper 20; Western Sandpiper 16; Downy Woodpecker 1; Meadowlark 6; Purple Finch 2; Willow Goldfinch 3; Green-backed Goldfinch 2; Shrike 1; Myrtle Warbler 19; Tule Wren 18; Wren-tit 3.

Audubon Notes

January (14th annual) Meeting: The meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 8th, at 8 p. m., room 19, 2nd floor, Ferry Building.

Annual reports will be presented and officers and directors elected for the coming year.

Mr. Dudley S. DeGroot, of The Menlo Union High School, will speak on "Bird Life on the Islands off the Coast of Lower California."



January Field Trip will be taken to the wild waterfowl sanctuary at Lake Merritt, Oakland, on Sunday, the 11th. San Francisco members will take Key Route Boat at 9 a. m. and the Grand Avenue car on the Twenty-second Street train from the mole, leaving the car at Grand Avenue and Perkins Street, where party will form at 9:45 a. m.

East Bay members will transfer from any traction main line to Grand Avenue or Lakeshore Avenue cars.



1931 Dues. The annual dues for the year of 1931 are now payable and all members are asked to make their remittances to the Treasurer as early as possible. It is requested that all checks be made out in the name of the Audubon Association of the Pacific.

A new membership has been created by the Board of Directors for the benefit of young people of High School and College age and entitles them to all the privileges of the Association at \$1.50 a year. When making application kindly give name of school.



December Meeting: The 167th regular meeting was held December 11th,

with twenty-eight in attendance. President, Brighton C. Cain presiding.

The resignations of Miss Amy Gunn and Miss Chilton were accepted.

Field observations were reported as follows:

Chas. Bryant: November 30th, Tomales Bay, 10,000 Black Brant and a large flock of Western Grebe. December 6th, Lake Merritt, Barrow Goldeneye.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. E. W. Ehrmann, of Piedmont, California, gave a very interesting account of the duck banding at Lake Merritt.



Book Notice: "Vertebrate Natural History of a Section of Northern California through The Lassen Peak Region," by Joseph Grinnell, Joseph Dixon and Jean M. Linsdale. Published by the University of California Press, Berkeley, California.

Contents: Some plants of the Lassen section; Distributional considerations; Life-zones of the Lassen section; Faunal relations; Populations of Birds; Historical comment; Check-list of the terrestrial vertebrates of the Lassen section; General accounts; Amphibians; Reptiles; Birds; Mammals.

The objectives kept in mind during the survey of the area were: what kinds of land vertebrates are present, the frequency of observed occurrence and relative abundance of these kinds, the local or habitat distribution of each kind, the factors which determine the presence and habitat distribution of each kind, the annual cycle of activity of each kind in the section, and a method of analyzing vertebrate communities and successions. The report is paper covered containing 595 pages, price \$6.00.

Audubon Association of the Pacific For the Study and Protection of Birds

President.....	Brighton C. Cain.....	221 Thayer Bldg., Oakland
Recording Secretary.....	Mrs. Bessie W. Kibbe.....	Room 510, Russ Bldg., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.
Subscription to monthly Bulletin, 75c per year. Single copies, 15c.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.